

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Request for Extension or Renewal of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Department of Agriculture, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights to request a renewal to a currently approved information collection for race, ethnicity, and gender along with comments.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 23, 2017 to be assured of consideration.

Additional Information or Comments: Contact Anna G. Stroman, Deputy Director, Office of Compliance, Policy, Training and Cultural Transformation, by mail at Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Race, Ethnicity and Gender Data Collection.

OMB Number: OMB No. 0505-0019.
Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 2017.

Type of Request: Extension and renewal of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: This data collection is necessary to implement Sections 14006 and 14007 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. 8701 (hereafter referred to as the 2008 Farm Bill). Section 14006 of the 2008 Farm Bill establishes a requirement for the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to annually compile application and participation rate data regarding socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers by

computing for each program of the USDA that serves agriculture producers and landowners (a) raw numbers of applicants and participants by race, ethnicity, and gender subject to appropriate privacy protections, as determined by the Secretary; and (b) the application and participation rate, by race, ethnicity and gender, as a percentage of the total participation rate of all agricultural producers and landowners for each county and State in the United States. Pursuant to the authority in section 14006, the agencies of the Department of Agriculture are to collect the data and transmit it to the Secretary of Agriculture. Section 14007 requires the Department of Agriculture to use the data collected in the conduct of oversight and evaluation of civil rights compliance.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response.

Respondents: Producers, applicants.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,520,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 117,333.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* Send comments to Anna.Stroman@ascr.usda.gov.
- *Mail:* Anna G. Stroman, Deputy Director, Office of Compliance, Policy, Training and Cultural Transformation, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250.

All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Winona Lake Scott,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

[FR Doc. 2017-08151 Filed 4-21-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

April 19, 2017.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments are requested regarding (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by May 24, 2017 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-

7602. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8958.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Economic Research Service

Title: Census of Users of the National Plant Germplasm System.

OMB Control Number: 0536-NEW.

Summary of Collection: The Census of Users of the National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS) is a new, one-time, data collection. The census will solicit data from the 6,009 institutional representatives who requested germplasm (*i.e.*, living tissue from which plants can be grown) for any of ten crops including beans, barley, cotton, maize, sorghum, squash, soybeans, potato, rice, and wheat from the NPGS over a five year period from January 2009 to December 2013. Each respondent will be asked to provide information via a web-based questionnaire. The legal authority for the planned data collection is 7 U.S.C. 2204(a) and 7 U.S.C. 427.

Need and Use of the Information: The information to be collected by the "Census of Users of the National Plant Germplasm System" is necessary to assess and understand the types and varieties of germplasm needed by breeders and other scientists in both the public and private sectors. This study will provide data currently not available to program officials and researchers, thereby broadening the scope of analyses of genetic enhancement, and in turn, enhancing R&D and productivity research at the Economic Research Service, the National Plant Germplasm System, and the National Germplasm Resource Laboratory. Without the combination of data about traits sought and the purpose intended for germplasm, it will be difficult or impossible to assess the use of NPGS resources for adaptation to changing conditions.

Description of Respondents: Individuals or households; Businesses or other-for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government; Federal Government.

Number of Respondents: 6,009.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Other: One time.

Total Burden Hours: 1,620.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017-08190 Filed 4-21-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

April 19, 2017.

The Department of Agriculture will submit the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 on or after the date of publication of this notice. Comments are requested regarding: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC; New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250-7602.

Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received by May 24, 2017. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Agricultural Marketing Service

Title: Vegetable and Specialty Crops.

OMB Control Number: 0581-0178.

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (7 U.S.C. 601-674; Act) was designed to permit regulation of certain agricultural commodities for the purpose of providing orderly marketing conditions in interstate commerce and improving returns to growers. The Orders and Agreements become effective only after public hearings are held in accordance with formal rulemaking procedures specified by the Act. The vegetable, and specialty crops marketing order programs provide an opportunity for producers in specified production areas to work together to solve marketing problems that cannot be solved individually.

Need and Use of the Information: Various forms are used to collect information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the Act and the Order/Agreement. This includes forms covering the selection process for industry members to serve on a marketing order's committee or board and ballots used in referenda to amend or continue marketing orders. Orders and Agreements can authorize the issuance of grade, size, quality, maturity, inspection requirements, pack and container requirements, and pooling and volume regulations. Information collected is used to formulate market policy, track current inventory and statistical data for market development programs, ensure compliance, and verify eligibility, monitor and record grower's information. If this information is not collected, it would eliminate data needed to keep the industry and the Secretary abreast of changes at the State and local level.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for profit; Farms; Individuals or households.

Number of Respondents: 17,750.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion, Quarterly, Biennially, Weekly, Semi-annually, Monthly, Annually and Recordkeeping.

Total Burden Hours: 25,220.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017-08166 Filed 4-21-17; 8:45 am]

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